

LITTLE BLAIR VALLEY CULTURAL PRESERVE

Purpose and Intent of Cultural Preserve Zone

The purpose of this Cultural Preserve is to preserve “culturally significant sites, buildings, or zones that represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California.”(PRC 5019.74)

Little Blair Valley is located in the central portion of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP). Little Blair Valley was used as a mid-elevation residential area by indigenous Peoples, particularly the Kumeyaay, in the springtime when the agave harvest took place. The proposed cultural preserve zone contains numerous cultural resources that include residential sites of Kumeyaay People, agave roasting pits and processing stations, extensive bedrock grinding features, and elaborate pictograph panels. The Cultural Preserve zone contains the “Morteros Village” archaeological site. This prehistoric village is in the very heart of agave country. Agave was a main staple of the Kumeyaay, the Native People of this region.

Within the Little Blair Valley Cultural Preserve is the Pictograph Trail, a rock-art interpretive trail. It also contains the site of the historic homestead of *Yaquitepec*; *Yaquitepec* located on Ghost Mountain and was the experimental home site of Marshall South, who brought his family to live in the area in the mid-20th century, and publicized and popularized their daily life in many columns and articles in *Desert Magazine*.

Cultural Preserve classification will allow for the additional protection and focused management of this resource sensitive area.

Primary Goal

The Primary goal for this and all Cultural Preserves is to protect and preserve the numerous cultural resources located here.

“Complete integrity of the resources shall be sought, and no structures or improvements that conflict with the integrity shall be permitted.” (P.R.C. 5019.74)

Guideline

LBV-G1

- Projects, activities or facility development that may affect the integrity cultural resources or impacts the cultural landscape and or the historic viewshed within the Cultural Preserve zone will not occur.

Roads and Parking

Goal:

“The use of motor vehicles in units of the state park system is subject to the following limitations: In state wildernesses, natural preserves, and cultural preserves, use is prohibited.” (P.R.C. 5001.8)

Guidelines:

LBV-G2

- Pictograph Ghost Mountain Road will be excluded from the cultural preserve zone. Motor vehicles will be permitted on this road.

LBV-G3

- Little Blair Valley Road and Star Gazers Road as well as the associated parking area at the terminus of Star Gazers Road will be excluded from the cultural preserve zone. Motor vehicles will be permitted on this road.

LBV-G4

- California State Parks will ensure access to trail heads at Morteros Village, Pictograph Trail, and *Yaquitepec* Trail by designating parking and staging areas at the trailheads to these areas outside of the preserve zone.

Camping

Goal:

The open camping policy at Anza Borrego Desert State Park within this area has the potential to cause damaging or degrading impacts to known and unknown historic and archaeological resources. Cultural Preserve status will allow for further protection of these sensitive resources.

Guidelines:

LBV-G5

- No camping will be allowed within the proposed cultural preserve.

LBV-G6

- Car camping is available in the main portion of Blair Valley adjacent to the cultural preserve zone.

LBV-G5

- Car camping will be available north and west of Star Gazers Road adjacent to the cultural preserve zone in Section 20 and 21.

Social Experiences and Activities

Goal

“Areas set aside as cultural preserves shall be large enough to provide for the effective management and interpretation of the resources” (PRC 5019.74)

LBV-G6

- Little Blair Valley Cultural Preserve will encompass approximately 4900 acres.

LBV-G7

- Visitors shall continue to have the opportunity to experience the proposed cultural preserve zone in a manner that does not compromise the integrity of the existing significant resources.

LBV-G8

- Interpretive signs will be established at appropriate and strategic locations such as the entrances to the cultural preserve zone, at the trail heads leading to Morteros Village, Pictograph Trail , Smugglers Canyon, and *Yaquitepec*. Interpretive signage will also be established in the camping areas and at the restrooms in Blair Valley, as well as along “Star Gazer Road” and will enhance the visitor experience while recognizing the previous inhabitants of the proposed cultural preserve zone and encouraging respectful visitation as well as alerting visitors to the sensitivity of both the cultural and natural resources.

LBV-G9

- The Colorado Desert District will implement a planned self-guiding interpretive trail through Morteros Village.

LBV-G10

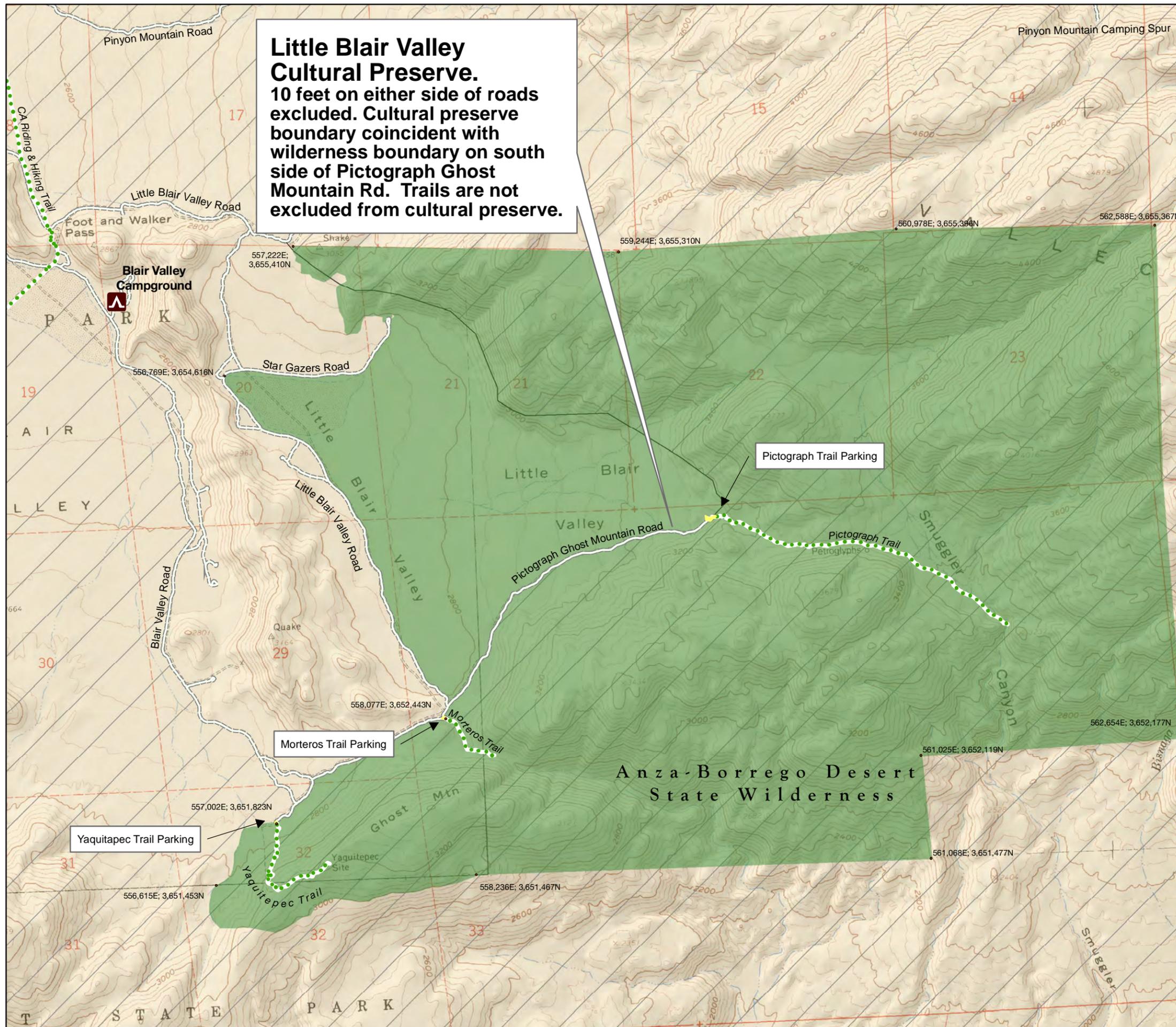
- Visits to *Yaquitepec* shall be only with a trained volunteer interpreter and/or a self-guiding interpretive trail shall be established to visit this site.

LBV-G11

- Trained archaeological site stewards shall continue make regular periodic visits to sensitive areas and report any continuing impacts so that management of the proposed cultural preserve zone may be adjusted.

LBV-G12

- All interpretive signs shall reflect the Kumeyaay Native Voice in names of cultural and natural features.



ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK

Little Blair Valley Cultural Preserve

4,757 Acres

Legend

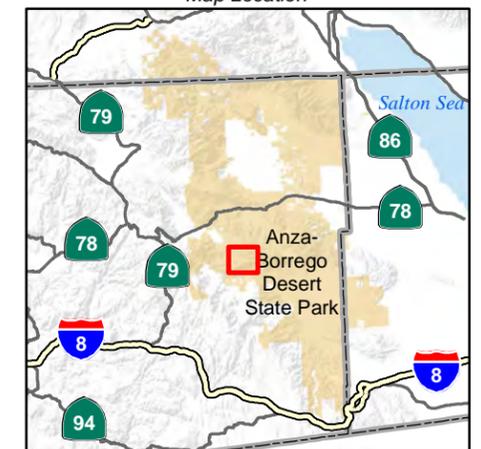
- Proposed Cultural Preserves
 - Revision: Omitted from proposed CP
 - Anza Borrego Desert State Park
 - Existing Wilderness
 - Hwy
 - Local Rd
 - State Park Rd
 - State Park Trail
- Primitive Family Campsite

UTM 11, NAD 1983 Eastings, and Northings shown at points

Base Map: USGS 1:24,000
 Representative Fraction: 1:24,000
 Contour Interval: 40' 1 inch = 2,000 feet



Map Location



NOTES:

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only.

PLANNING
DIVISION

GENERAL
PLAN
SECTION

Date 11/08/10
 Sources:
 Calif. Dept. of Parks
 & Recreation,
 Colorado Desert
 District

